



EVERY TUESDAY

# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## A NEW CAPITAL WILL RISE Where Asoka Renounced War Many Centuries Ago

GREAT things are happening in India's ancient province of Orissa, south-west of Bengal. A mighty dam, the first of three, is being constructed on its river, the Mahanadi, and a new capital of Orissa is being built on what is for India a hallowed spot.

On the site of the new capital there stands a rock on which is carved the inscription by which a great Emperor of India, perhaps the noblest king who ever lived, renounced war more than 2200 years ago. He was the Buddhist Emperor, Asoka, whose symbol of a wheel is on the new Indian flag, and who reigned from 264 to about 228 B.C. over the whole of India from Madras to the Himalayas.

In those faraway times he came to this spot, which is about five miles from Bhuvanewar, as a conqueror of the kingdom of Kalinga; but he had been so saddened by the horrors of warfare that he resolved to wage no more wars but to devote himself to the conquest of men's hearts by religion.

### The Carved Messages

He caused the words describing his grand design to be carved on the rock near Bhuvanewar which has been preserved there for over 2200 years.

Asoka had become a Buddhist, and all over his vast empire, he set up inscriptions urging his subjects to follow the moral precepts of the Buddha. Of these inscriptions of his, more than 30 have been found in widely-different parts of India, on pillars—of which ten are in existence—and on rocks, and on the walls of caves, always in the ancient language of the region where they were carved to give their silent message through the ages. We owe much of our knowledge of his times and of the history of Buddhism to them.

### WELCOME!



Mavis, as a nine-day-old Shetland pony at the London Zoo, is greeted by George the giraffe.



Asoka as a Buddhist saint

In these stone texts Asoka carefully avoided the philosophical expressions of Buddhism and simply taught men to live good lives.

"All men are to me as my children," he wrote. "As I wish my children welfare and prosperity in this and the next world, so I do to men." He spoke to his people in the enduring letters of stone on moral purity, nobility of heart, kindness in word and deed, respect and obedience to parents, love to children, tenderness to the weak, kindness to all creatures, the utmost toleration for other faiths, liberality in almsgiving, the avoidance of anger, passion, and cruelty.

We know, too, that Asoka did not confine himself to sermons in stones; he carried out material works for the benefit of his people. He planted fruit trees and trees to give shade to travellers on the dusty high roads, and built rest-houses for the wayfarers. He had wells dug and watering-places for man and beast established.

He set up hospitals not only for sick men but for sick animals, and encouraged the cultivation of medicinal herbs and roots believed in those days to be cures for diseases. He extended his good works, moreover, to the folk of other religions, to the Jains and the Brahmans. He forbade the taking of the lives of most animals either for food or for sacrifice.

### Great Works in Hand

Asoka's love for his fellow-men, and for all God's creatures, has been remembered and blest by millions, and the fame of it has spread throughout the world.

How Asoka would have rejoiced at the work now going forward in Orissa! The three dams, when they are completed in about six years, will save the land from floods, irrigate its crops, and enable the province to produce five or six times more electricity than is at present generated in the whole of India. The foundation of the first dam, at Hirakud near Sambalpur, which is about 250 miles up the River Mahanadi from where it empties itself through many mouths into the Bay of Bengal, was laid not long ago by Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister of India, who, the next day, laid the foundation stone of Orissa's new capital at the place where Asoka began his crusade for the good things of life.

## The Spirit of Try Again

REGINALD HARGREAVES HARRIS of the Manchester Wheelers is expected to bring an Olympic cycling championship to this country in August; yet little more than two months ago it seemed that his brilliant career had ended.

During Easter Reg Harris suffered spinal injuries in a car accident and at first it seemed that he would not be able to ride again, and even if he did was not likely to recover his former speed. But he has completely recovered and after winning several races is now in full training for the Olympic sprint title.

Once before, this 28-year-old Lancastrian was told that his racing days were over. During the war he was trapped in a blazing tank in the Middle East, and although he escaped alive his injuries were so severe that he was invalided out of the Army. This misfortune only increased his determination to achieve new successes on the cycle track. In 1946 he was chosen to represent Great Britain in the world's sprint championships—only to fail; within a year, however, he was the world's champion.

Now Reg Harris is all set for the Olympic title.



## BANANAS AND PINEAPPLES

The picture above shows a picker with a basketful of pineapples in Puerto Rico, where a record harvest of the luscious fruit has been gathered.

In Fiji bananas grown on small plantations owned by the natives are in great demand. Bamboo rafts such as that in the picture on the left are used to take the bananas down river to the packing stations. Much of the fruit is dehydrated for export owing to the shortage of refrigerator ships.



## The East's Man-Power Carriages

VISITORS to Shanghai today, with its Western administration entirely supplanted by Chinese, notice among other changes the establishment of literally thousands of "pedicabs." They are rickshaws attached to bicycles whose riders provide the motive power.

The pedicabs are a relic of the invasion by the Japanese. In Japan the rickshaw, without cycle, has a name meaning "man-power carriage," and at one time it simply swarmed there. When, last century, King George the Fifth as a midshipman visited Japan with his brother, the Duke of Clarence, he found to his astonishment that Tokyo alone had 250,000 rickshaws daily plying for hire. The rickshaw is a light, two-wheeled vehicle which is man-

drawn; one man for short journeys, two men for more ambitious expeditions.

The men were short and wiry, with calves and thighs enormously developed through constant running. Up hill and down, all day they trotted at six miles an hour, resting little and eating nothing but tiny portions of rice; but in a day they covered little less than 50 miles, and that for threepence a man per hour. The young Princes wrote in their diary the belief that Japanese rickshaw-men could never be ousted, for the reason that the country did not grow enough grass to feed horses for a rival form of transport. Motor transport they did not foresee, and bicycles for so-called pedicabs were then undreamed of in Japan.

## A SLEEPER WAKES

WAKING up after 22 years of sleep, Mount Ngauruhoe in the centre of the North Island of New Zealand, recently sent up flames a thousand feet above its 7000-foot high crater.

Fortunately Mount Ngauruhoe and its neighbouring volcanic cones of Ruapehu and Tongariro rise from the uninhabited hills and tablelands of New Zealand's famous National Park. For miles in all directions the country is preserved in its natural state for holiday-makers and volcanoes that sometimes awake from their sleep.

In recent years Mount Ruapehu has been in eruption from time to time, sending out dust and grit. Now Ruapehu is quiet again, but its neighbour Ngauruhoe celebrated the end of April by becoming active for the first time since 1926.



## FEEDING THE HUMAN RACE

**S**PEAKING at London University the other day Sir John Boyd Orr insisted that the gravest problem facing the peoples of the world was an increasing scarcity of food.

The world's population, declared Sir John, is increasing by 20 millions a year, and owing to man's success in the control of disease, this rate will increase. On the other hand, there is little more virgin land available for the raising of more food crops.

It was to meet this situation that the United Nations established the Food and Agricultural Organisation of which Sir John is now giving up his post as Director-General.

The task of FAO is not actually to get more food but to advise nations of the world how to do so. In the first place, only a vast international organisation

can attempt to estimate what is at the disposal of the human race not only as arable land but also as forests, rivers, and pastures.

One of the major obstacles to be overcome is the actual shrinking through neglect of the arable land at man's disposal. Soil erosion is a grave problem in many parts of the world. Many C.N. readers understand this subject, but others may ask, How does this soil erosion occur?

### Robbing the Soil

Wherever man tills the soil he deprives it of its natural protection—grass and trees. The adaptation of the vast prairies of Canada and the United States for the plough has, in fact, deprived hundreds of thousands of square miles of such protection. In many areas the results have been disastrous. It is true that food was readily obtained, but soon the consequences of indiscriminate exploitation of soil became apparent. With the disappearance of woods and grasslands rains ran swiftly from the hills, taking away soil and swelling into tremendous floods. What has happened in the great river basins of Mississippi (the Middle West "dust-bowl") and the Yangtse-kiang is a grave example of what soil erosion means.

To prevent our plot of land getting smaller is, therefore, one of the key tasks of FAO, and it has already published a book, *Soil Conservation*, an International Study. But there are many more. The world is short of timber, although forests still abound. FAO has accordingly set itself to promoting the proper exploitation of forests in areas where this has not yet been done. In Canada, the U.S. and other parts of the Northern Hemisphere where cutting has been greater than the rate of growth we must ease up a little. In South America we can safely cut more than hitherto.

### World Food Council

Other problems the FAO has to watch range from finding the best seed potatoes for such countries as Italy or Siam to recommending the best methods of large-scale irrigation in Bolivia.

The great volume of work which has fallen upon FAO has led to the creation of a permanent World Food Council. This consists of 18 members drawn from 57 nations, and its main task is to keep a continuous look-out for trouble in the great work of feeding the human race. It can recommend certain policies to member nations; it can also examine international agreements as far as they concern world food.

Although our immediate food difficulties may be lessened by the coming harvest, which promises well, we have to look far ahead for a world population which is growing not only in numbers but also in its demand for a higher standard of living.

While pointing to the dangers of inaction, Sir John Boyd Orr revealed what science quickly and intensively applied can achieve. Production of food can, he said, be increased faster than populations could possibly grow; and increased prosperity was the only basis of world peace.

## Their First Election

**T**HE people of Korea have held the first general election in their history. Unhappily, it is only the southern half of the country that has been privileged thus to vote for a constituent assembly, for the inhabitants of Korea north of the 38th parallel and under the military rule of Russia have been denied this freedom of choice.

Southern Korea, allotted to U.S. supervision by the Moscow Conference of December 1945, is agricultural in contrast to the industrial north and so the population is less dense, the electorate numbering some seven millions. Actually four out of every five electors went to the poll—this proportion being even bigger in Seoul, the capital.

Koreans are a people with a fierce desire for independence but a lack of political cohesion. It is said that as many as 400 different parties were in the field, including a small Communist party, whose chief object was to defeat the purpose of the election.

The holding of this election was the result of a decision by the United Nations who a few months ago sent a Commission to supervise it. It will be the task of the 200 elected representatives to decide upon the form of a National Government.

## A SCHOOL IN A FOREST

**T**HERE is news from Scotland which will make English boys envious. A famous Highland home, Glenmore Lodge in Inverness-shire, is to be converted in August into a school for the teaching, among other subjects, of nature study, geology, botany, and mountaineering. The Scottish Education Department is to give it a five-year trial.

A school could hardly be more delightfully situated. The Lodge was long the home of visiting deer-stalkers, Glenmore having been formerly a famous deer forest, 15,000 acres in extent. Wild and rugged, Glenmore joins three other forests, and boasts a beautiful lake, Loch Morlich. Close at hand is Cairngorm (4084 feet), often snow-capped even in summer.

The whole scene is rich in beauty and splendour, and suggestive of the romance of other days. To crown all, Glenmore forest has its own legend. It boasts a "fairy knight," known as Lhamdearg, or Red Hand, who used to ride in majesty through the night-shrouded woods. As he has not been seen for nearly three centuries, however, no one need fear that he will resent the coming of young scholars to what tradition declares to have been his enchanted domain.

## Dr Johnson's House

**N**UMBER 17 Gough Square, near Fleet Street, London, the house where the great Dr Samuel Johnson lived from 1748 to 1759, and where he compiled his famous Dictionary, has been repaired and is open again to the public.

The house was seriously damaged during the war, and the attic where Dr Johnson and his six assistants worked at the Dictionary was burnt out on December 29, 1940.

The Pilgrim Trust made a grant of £2250 toward the cost of the work.

## WORLD NEWS REEL

**ABDICATION.** Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, who has reigned for 50 years, has announced her intention to abdicate in favour of her daughter, Princess Juliana.

A camera which has an exposure of one hundred millionth of a second has been developed by the U.S. Navy.

*The people of South Africa have given a new lifeboat to Beaumaris, Anglesey.*

**FIRST PRESIDENT.** Senator Luigi Einaudi, a famous economist, has been elected President of the first Italian Republic. He is 74 and a member of the Liberal Party.

When a fire broke out in a forest in Nova Scotia the fire-fighters drew water from a reservoir formed by a beaver dam and so saved many acres of timber.

*Not long ago a flying boat alighted on a wide expanse of the Zambesi river near the Victoria Falls. She was the first flying boat of the new BOAC twice-weekly service between Southampton and Johannesburg.*

**AT LAST.** For his service in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, M. Jean Pillat, aged 100, has just received the French Military Medal.

The Lord Mayor of Adelaide's third Food for Britain Fund has been opened. The Government of South Australia will give one pound for every pound subscribed up to £10,000. The food will be given to war widows and ex-Servicemen's children.

*The British Government's proposals for a new constitution for Cyprus have been submitted for consideration by the Cyprus Consultative Assembly.*

**WHALE HARVEST.** The whale ship Balaena, after four months in the Antarctic, produced 4500 tons of whale meat, about 163,000 barrels of edible oil, much of which will be used for margarine, 10,000 barrels of sperm oil, 170 tons of meat extract, and 3200 tons of meat for cattle fodder.

Pakistan will have its own State Bank from July 1.

*The first British car to be exported by air left Bovingdon for Madrid not long ago.*

## HOME NEWS REEL

**LAND FUND.** The Government of Northern Ireland are to establish a fund of £1,000,000 to acquire and preserve beauty spots and historic buildings on behalf of the people.

Four Shakespeare folios sold in one lot in London fetched £7100.

*Books will be delivered to children whose parents consider it dangerous for them to go to Marylebone Public Library in busy Marylebone Road.*

**BELL BELLES.** The churches of Bolton, Lancashire, are appealing for 60 women relief bell-ringers.

The boy or girl under 16 who writes the best essay describing a day at Northolt Airport will win a free air trip. The airport authorities will award one prize flight every week.

*The doorknocker of a house called The Brook, Chatham, once occupied by Charles Dickens, has been taken off and presented to the people of Rochester.*

**FAIRY GODFATHER?** An unknown man gave £12 to a Southampton ice-cream vendor and told him to give away ices to children until the money ran out.

As part of Finsbury Park four-week open-air theatre season, beginning June 21, the L.C.C. are presenting an epic play based on events which have affected the lives of Londoners.

*What is believed to be a world record for the value of a catch of fish, £19,069, was obtained recently for 356 tons landed at Grimsby by the Icelandic trawler Neptunus.*

**RADIO v FIRE.** The Forestry Commission now have radio-equipped vehicles for fighting forest fires. The vehicles are similar to a Bren gun carrier and are summoned by wireless.

Since 1941 the War Damage Commission has paid out £522,500,000 for repairs and rebuilding.

*When the Meindry Colliery, Rhondda, was closed not long ago, a cat born in the underground stables there refused to come up. He had to be trapped and brought to the surface.*

**ECHO OF 1066.** The remains of Saxon warriors believed to have perished in the Battle of Hastings in 1066 have been unearthed in the Deanery Gardens at Battle.

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

**SCOUT PAGEANT.** All next week a great pageant, "Boy Scout," is to be presented at the Royal Albert Hall, London. A



thousand Scouts will appear in the pageant, including a choir of 200; and our picture shows Michael Manders, of the 2nd Oxhey (Herts) Troop, who has been chosen to play the leading part.

Princess Elizabeth has passed on to the Girl Guides' Association £200 received as a wedding gift from British people in Portuguese East Africa; and £620, half the sum given to her by the Cable and Radio Company of New York.

*The Chief Scout has awarded the Cornwell Scout Badge to Patrol Second Michael Crabb, age 13, of the 1st Ryde (Isle of Wight) Troop, for his courage and fortitude under great suffering.*

**INVITATION.** Twelve German Youth Leaders have been invited to attend Boys' Brigade Training Schools which will be held in July and August at Taunton and Wellington.

King's Lynn Boy Scouts are building a fleet of portable canoes weighing half-a-hundredweight each for their summer camp on the Norfolk Broads.

*During her New Zealand tour the Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell, presented the Badge of Fortitude to Kathleen Penney of Auckland, who, although crippled, has been an enthusiastic Guide for ten years.*

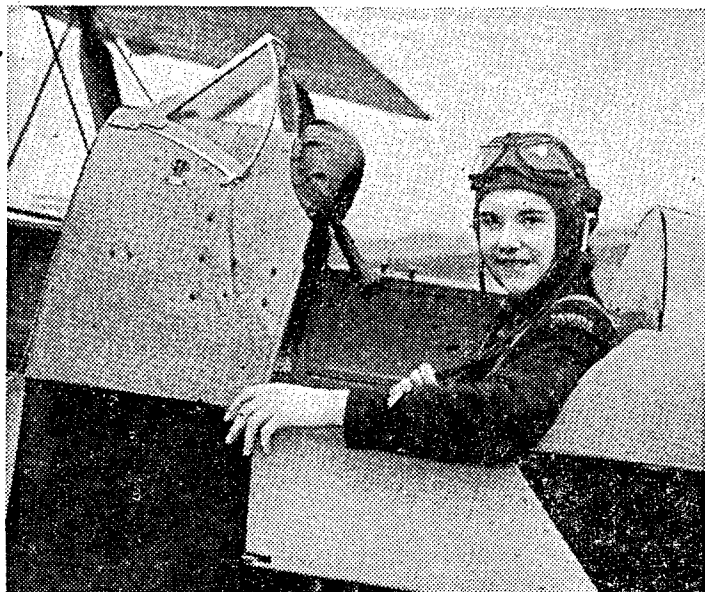
## BY DIPLOMA

**O**N Tuesday this week Princess Elizabeth is to visit Oxford to receive the D.C.L., the highest honour the University has to offer.

This degree, Doctor of Civil Law, is conferred on famous people in recognition of their services to mankind. Famous people thus honoured recently are General Eisenhower, Field-Marshal Montgomery, and Mr Attlee, all having received the Honorary degree. When this degree is given to royalty, however, or to Presidents of Republics, in order to make it completely outstanding, it is conferred "by diploma." This means that the recipient immediately becomes a full member of the University, enjoying all the special privileges which this entails.

Princess Elizabeth now joins the King and Queen and Queen Mary in receiving Oxford's D.C.L. by diploma.





### A Girl Wins Her Wings

Joan Wood, aged 21, is the first Air Ranger to gain "wings" and hold an "A" Licence. Joan wants to make flying her career, and must complete a further 200 hours before she can get her "B" Licence.

### District Observers

A NEW offensive against litter, vandalism, and defacement of the countryside has been launched by the Merseyside Civic Society, headed by the Earl of Derby and Viscount Leverhulme. In every district of Merseyside a number of well-informed citizens—called District Observers—are ready to report to the Society any threat to existing amenities, or any opportunities they may notice for the improvement of their district.

People who drop litter in the streets of Liverpool may be approached by one of the 1300 members and politely requested to observe the city's bye-laws. Protests will be made against the proposed removal of fine old trees, and unsightly advertisements will be pointed out to the city fathers.

The Merseyside Civic Society, formed in 1938, is a non-political organisation and its members include citizens of all classes. Towns and cities all over the country have followed Merseyside's lead, and through the Central Council of Civic Societies will maintain contact with the civic movement throughout Britain.

### DOG-LOVERS ARE "DECENT SORTS"

SERVICEMEN and women of our Occupation Forces in overseas countries are often given dogs or cats by people who cannot find food for them. When the Servicemen wish to bring these pets home to Britain they are faced by quarantine and travelling expenses which they cannot afford, and this means separations from beloved animals.

The Allied Forces Mascot Club, which is run by the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, has been giving help to these Servicemen and women to bring home their pets, the Servicemen repaying what they can afford. The Secretary of the Club, Miss D. St Hill Bourne, told the C.N. that in no single case has a man or woman thus helped failed to repay something, which shows, she thinks, that a dog-lover is "a decent sort."

The Mascot Club's funds are, unhappily, running low. Donations can be sent to the Club at the PDSA, 14 Clifford Street, London, W.1.

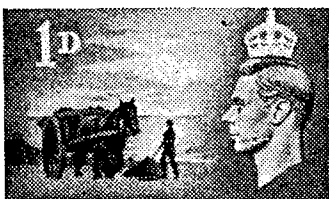
### ELEPHANTS WITH A MESSAGE

SIX elephants from Bertram Mills' Circus recently paraded through the streets of Goodmayes and Ilford to remind people to help their country—and themselves—by saving regularly and spending wisely.

Accompanied by their trainer, and bearing on their sides the National Savings "White Elephant" posters with the slogan "If you don't need it, don't buy it," the elephants were received at Ilford Town Hall by the Mayor and Town Clerk in their official robes.

### STAMP NEWS

SPECIAL 1d and 2½d stamps commemorating the liberation of the Channel Islands are now



on sale at many head post offices in the British Isles. The stamps, which are double the normal size, depict seaweed-gathering scenes on the Islands.

A SERIES of Royal Silver Wedding Commemorative stamps are now being prepared for 49 Colonies.

SWEDEN has issued a stamp to mark the Centenary of the Swedish Settlement in the U.S. It shows an early settler pushing his plough in front of his wooden homestead, while in the background is a skyscraper.

DEFINITIVE stamps (16 values) have now appeared for the Saar territory, now under French control. The designs include smelting, rebuilding, and a miner's head.

YUGOSLAVIA has issued a set of stamps in connection with the Zagreb International Fair. They bear symbols of different industries over a map of the country.

BAHAWALPUR, an Indian Native State, recently issued a set of pictorials showing palaces and forts, and a portrait of the Maharajah, a keen philatelist.

### A SURPRISE FOR THE PILOT

IN a Nottinghamshire Education Week lecture to secondary school boys, on Jet Propulsion, Mr C. L. Hinings, head of the Rolls-Royce aero-engine school at Derby, told a delightful story about a peculiar happening in the sky above Nottingham one day in 1942.

He said that the pilot of a Hurricane fighter, then one of the fastest planes, noticed a grandmotherly old Wellington bomber following him. As he knew the bomber was normally capable of only half his speed, the pilot put his fighter "flat out," but great was his surprise when the "Wimpey" overtook and streaked past him. That, explained Mr Hinings, marked the opening of a new epoch, for into the Wellington's tail had been fitted the first prototype jet propulsion unit, which was being given a flight test. Much of the development work was carried out at Hucknall in Nottinghamshire.

### A Mother's Heroism

THE Royal Humane Society has awarded its Stanhope Gold Medal for the bravest deed in 1947 to Mrs Petronella Ferguson. When a cloudburst swept away her home in the Windward Isles during the night a flooded river carried her and her husband and son out to sea.

After her husband and son had been drowned Mrs Ferguson heard a child's cry, so she swam towards it and found a girl of 13 clinging to a log. She began to push the log toward the shore, but the current was still moving seaward and it was two hours before she succeeded in bringing the little girl safe to shore.

### LEARNING RUSSIAN

AT a recent conference of University teachers in London it was recommended that the Russian language should be more widely studied in Britain.

Among those at the conference were the Heads of the Russian and Slavonic departments at the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London, Leeds, and Glasgow. They suggested, too, that Russian should be made a "second language" in our schools, like Spanish or German, and they proposed that more dictionaries and grammars should be provided, and that Slavonic periodicals should be microfilmed.

### Thank You, "Dobbin"

IF the horses and other animals of London could understand things as well as humans, they would all want to bid an affectionate farewell to a man who for 28 years has been their faithful friend and protector. He is Mr Alfred Turner, nicknamed "Dobbin" because of his love for horses, who recently retired from the Metropolitan Police.

During his service as a policeman "Dobbin" has waged a long struggle against the ill-treatment of horses and other animals. Whenever a case of an animal being treated badly came to his notice he invariably brought the offender before the magistrate.

Mr Turner was a Yorkshire farmer's son, and as a young man he served in the Royal Veterinary Corps. Now he wants to go back to the country to work, but with his animal friends.

### The Stewed Eels of Old England

IN Scotland eels are not popular as food though they are plentiful there. Mr W. J. M. Menzies, in a paper recently published by the Scottish Fresh-Water Fisheries Committee, writes: "The prejudice which exists against the eel in Scotland is most unfortunate, since it prevents Scots taking advantage of a most nutritious fish," and he points out that in England the demand for eels is such that they have to be imported from abroad.

Possibly the Scots look down on the English for their eel-eating habits, just as for a long time the English called the French "Froggies" because of their fondness for frogs' legs.

### WHERE BUNNY IS A PEST

THE millions of wild rabbits in New Zealand are a constant menace to the hill pastures where 30 million sheep graze to provide mutton and wool for Britain. This year the war against these unwanted rabbits is being waged vigorously under the direction of a council of farmers and officials set up by a recent Act of the Dominion Parliament. It is hoped greatly to reduce the menace of the rabbits.

### Nightingales Also Sing by Day

NOW is the time to hear the nightingale pouring forth his exquisite song; and it is well to remind ourselves that, contrary to a widely-held idea, the nightingale sings as loudly and as long by daylight as during the romantic stillness of the night. After sundown the little minstrel has the air to himself; by day he is one of a swelling chorus—of blackbirds, thrushes, linnets, warblers, and so forth—and only the expert can detect his note.

The unpractised listener supposes that the little sovereign of songsters is either entirely silent by day, or is perhaps rehearsing, in a low soft voice, the full scale of glory with which he will set the air of moonlit night joyously throbbing. It is not so. The same song, in the same volume, gladdens the daylight also.

These prejudices against people because of what they like to eat are fairly widespread. Chinese eat birds' nests; Australian Aborigines eat snakes and grubs; in the Mediterranean and elsewhere the octopus is considered a delicacy—and many comments on these habits are uncomplimentary.

Sometimes, however, the traveller overcomes his prejudice and develops a taste for exotic food; let us hope that the virile Scots may add to their strength by discovering the joys of stewed eels. After all, they can never be sure that an eel or two does not sometimes find its way into the glorious confusion of their haggis!

### From the Highlands and Islands

STARTING on July 8 an all-Gaelic summer camp will be held for about 100 children from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland at Lochailort, near Fort William. The camp, which will be organised by the Gaelic youth movement, Comunn na h-Oighridh, will last for a month, girls attending for the first fortnight and boys for the second.

The camp is designed to bring together young people from the more inaccessible points of the Highlands and the Western Isles who would otherwise have little chance of meeting. Only Gaelic will be used in conducting the affairs of the camp.

### RING UP FOR THE ANTI-FLY SQUAD

IF the citizens of Lewisham, London, should be pestered with flies this summer, they will have an easy remedy. All they will have to do is to ring up the Town Hall, and an anti-fly squad of two men will come on a motor-cycle and sidecar, armed with spraying and dusting equipment, DDT, and other insecticides.

This is a praiseworthy experiment on the part of the Lewisham Borough Council in the interests of public health, for flies are carriers of harmful germs and the pests must be attacked with full vigour.



### Little Big Drummer

At a recent military display the drummer of the band of the Boys' Battery, R.A., found one young visitor who was eager to make a hit.



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## MERCURY COMES TO COLCHESTER

AN important personage is now at Colchester, in Essex. He is Mercury, a god of ancient Rome, and he now stands in a place of honour in the Castle Museum.

This charming little statuette is 21 inches high, hollow-cast, nude, and, although the arms are missing, is in a very good state of preservation. The craftsman has shown his skill, and Mercury is lithe and muscular, and looks as if he is about to begin one of his swift and speedy journeys. The details are very clear, and even the wrinkles on the forehead and round the eyes can be clearly seen. The pupils of the eyes are drilled out. The mouth has a slightly supercilious twist.

The figure was found by a ploughman a few years ago at Gosbecks Farm, near Colchester, and it now comes to the Castle Museum by the generosity of the Trustees of the Ward-Tomlinson Estate.

The site where the discovery was made is south of the town, about 300 feet from the great temple of Cheshunt field, which may suggest that the temple was dedicated to Mercury, since the gift was obviously rich and of considerable importance.

Whether this be so or not, Mercury now gazes serenely out from his case, after his long rest of nearly 2000 years beneath the soil, and visitors are once more filled with admiration for the ancient craftsmen.

## Cricketer Who Became a Tennis Star

WE have been hearing quite a lot recently of Eric Sturgess, South Africa's Number 1 lawn tennis player, who, following a successful season in his own country, has had a complete triumph in the British Hard Court Championships.

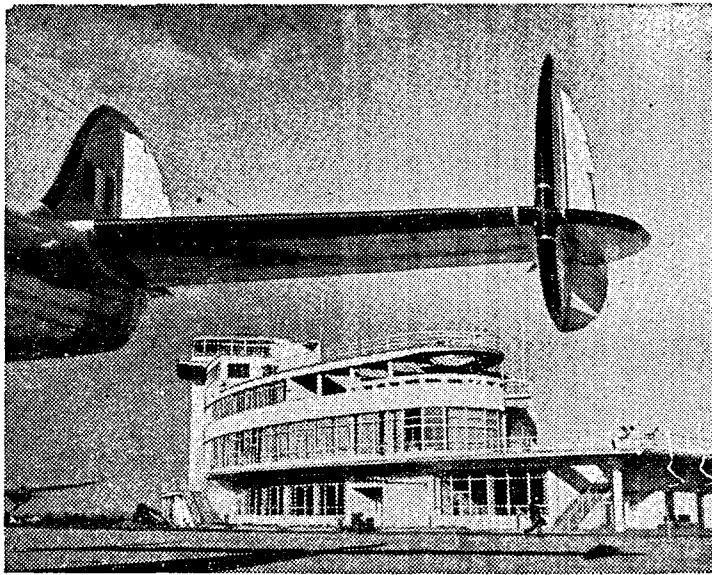
Sturgess might have been famous as a cricketer on Test fields. At school he was better at cricket than tennis, and this was not surprising, for J. T. Hearne was his great-uncle, and J. W. Hearne his uncle, both great players for England and Middlesex.

There came a time, however, when Sturgess was forced to decide between the two games, and tennis was his choice because it took up less of his time during his years of study.

## YESTERDAY & TODAY

### The Beadle

THE beadle of a town was originally an officer whose duty it was to summon people to court to answer charges against them. Many an old English town still has its beadle, though his picturesque livery is usually seen only on occasions of civic ceremony. He carries a mace as a symbol of his authority, as we see here.



## Eire Airport

The strikingly modern appearance of the airport building at Dublin is here glimpsed beneath the tail of an airliner.

## The Oldest Daily Newspaper

WHAT is believed to be the oldest daily newspaper in the world, The Public Ledger—to which Thackeray, Dr Johnson, and Oliver Goldsmith once contributed—was recently in the news when it was reported that its former editor-owner, Mr Henry Sullivan Alexander, of Richmond, Surrey, had died, aged 79.

The full name of the paper, which is a City of London journal devoted to market prices and commercial matters, is The Public Ledger, incorporating the Grain, Seed, and Oil Reporter, Dornbusch's and Beerbohm's Lists. It was founded, under Royal licence, on December 17, 1759. Signed by the elder Pitt, the licence was granted to William Faden.

For some years after The Public Ledger started it gave general information. One of its earliest dispatches was a vivid account of the Battle of Quebec, September 1759.

As a small, four-page newspaper, The Public Ledger of September 22, 1761, contained a notice of the Coronation of King

George III. This included a plan of the procession led by "the King's Herb Woman with her six maids, strewing sweet herbs."

In 1761 and 1762, when Goldsmith was receiving from it a guinea each for his Chinese Letters—later reprinted as Citizen of the World—Mr John Newbery was the owner. Dr Johnson wrote for Newbery, and in the 19th century Thackeray was a shareholder in the paper as well as a contributor.

It is interesting to note that there was no reference in the paper between 1914 and 1918 to the First World War; it reported only the daily state of the markets.

Mr Alexander bought The Public Ledger in 1932 and gave up the ownership in 1940. It is still appearing. As Mr Alexander said in 1937: "As a daily from the start, I believe The Public Ledger is the oldest newspaper in the world, because many newspapers which appeared earlier were weekly or monthly sheets—for instance, the Gazette de France."

## MUD HOUSES FOR THE MILLION?

THE serious shortage of some building materials has given great inconvenience to local authorities all over the country, but in Northern Ireland it has caused an old form of building to be revived. This is the rammed-earth building, so called because the walls are built up of successive layers of ordinary soil, well rammed down, until the necessary height is attained. Such walls, it is claimed, will stand for at least a hundred years.

Wooden frames or "forms" are employed in the first place to give shape to the walls. The soil is placed between the wooden frames, which are 18 inches apart, and the whole rammed until it will compress no more. The frames are then raised and the process continued. A coating of rough-cast on the outside serves to turn the weather. One house in Northern Ireland built on this principle 25 years ago shows no signs of wear.

Now, following articles in local papers, plans have been completed for the first rammed-earth house to be built by contractors, and if these are officially

approved building could begin immediately. The house will have a large square hall, a living room, three bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and so on. External walls will be of rammed earth, 18 inches thick; internal six-inch walls will also be of rammed earth.

By following this type of construction it is hoped to use only half the timber necessary for an ordinary subsidy house. The saving in cement is much more substantial, only five to ten cwt being needed against four tons for an ordinary brick-built house and 20 tons for a cement block house.

## Old Rhyme—New Twist

AN old nursery rhyme tells us of Little Tommy Tucker who sang for his supper. A new story from New Zealand brings the pleasant news that citizens of Wellington sang to provide suppers for Britain. So successful was a performance of Handel's Messiah by the Wellington Choral Union that £475 was handed to the Mayor for the Food-for-Britain fund.

## The Editors Table

### A FAIR CHANCE

ONCE more the world is indebted to Mr Churchill for a speech which will echo down the years. His call to Europe to be true "to its inheritance" and united in the defence of its freedom is worthy to stand with Lincoln's Gettysburg speech.

Especially memorable is Mr Churchill's picture of the millions of homes where men and women seek "a fair chance to make a home, to reap the fruits of their toil, to cherish their wives, to bring up their children in a decent manner and dwell in peace and safety without fear or bullying or monstrous burdens and exploitations."

THIS is a call to common humanity—a call which still finds a response in every land. It is an appeal to Europe, and indeed to the whole world, now to look beyond the rancour of the past toward "a happier sunlit age when all the little children who are now growing up in the tormented world may be the heirs of all the treasures of the past and the masters of all the science, the abundance, and the glories of the future."

Europe must translate this call into practical action for her own sake and for the great traditions of democratic life and freedom upon which the highest welfare of her peoples is founded. That great things can then be done is shown by the immediate response which all nations are giving to the needs of the world's children. Let the lines of action be based on appeals to the emotions common to all mankind. To prepare a world free from fear for the coming generation is the chief task now before civilised men—a task which will test the finest minds and the most generous hearts in all countries.

MR CHURCHILL'S vision is of a Europe living in harmony, restored and once more fit to lead the world in culture and in freedom. It is no longer the Europe of great empires and emperors, but a continent of humble homes where anxious people live, hoping that they may continue to "dwell in peace and safety."

### The Final Triumph

THE whole story of man is the triumph of the highest. Not once nor twice, but many times, the world has been wrapped in darkness and doubt. It has been in the grip of terror, and men have gazed appalled at the power of evil things. But in the end the power has been broken, and Peace has come from the struggle, purified and strengthened.

Arthur Mee, died  
May 27, 1943

### JUST AN IDEA

As the poet Cowper wrote:  
Absence of occupation is not rest,  
A mind quite vacant is a mind distressed.

## HOLIDAY SERVICE

SPEAKING at the annual display of the Boys' Brigade in the Albert Hall, Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery said:

"I have recently become interested in an organisation called Youth Service Volunteers, which plans summer camps in Britain and overseas for boys between the ages of 16 and 22. The sole object is to work during the holidays at tasks of national importance and to help rebuild a new Britain and a new Europe out of the ruins of the old. I commend the Youth Service Volunteers to you all."

This splendid organisation was founded about five years ago by Mr F. A. Bracey, who thought of the idea during the war, and was helped by Mr Kenneth Lindsay, M.P., and Miss Patience Bland, a member of the Youth Advisory Council.

This summer many Youth Service Volunteers will go to Europe to help rebuild shattered homes.

## The Way to Happiness

ADDRESSING young people at Swindon recently, Sir Stafford Cripps said:

"If you set out just to make what you can out of the rest of the world, to get away with the maximum of gain and the minimum of work, you will have a wretched and unhappy life. I do not say that merely to urge you or frighten you into doing more or doing it better. I say it because I know from years of experience that it is true.

"If, on the other hand, you set out to serve your country and humanity and to do whatever you do in that spirit of service and following Christ's teaching in all your actions, you will achieve your own inner peace and happiness."

### SUFFICIENT

I AM no herald to inquire of men's pedigrees; it sufficeth me if I know their virtues.  
Sir Philip Sidney

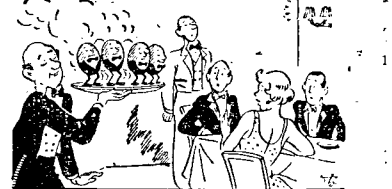
## Under the Ed

To be a good motorist the first essential is patience. We should have thought it was a motor-car.

A LADY advertised a few odd clothes for sale. Who wants to wear odd clothes?

A GOLD watch lost at Hanley was found in a trouser turn-up. The watch turned up too.

WE all make mistakes sometimes. Doesn't matter so long as they are not the only things we make.



A MAN described a public dinner as a full-dress affair. Even the potatoes were cooked in their jackets.



## Welcomed By All

It was heartening indeed to see how MPs of all parties welcomed the Children Bill when it came up for its second reading in the House of Commons. The Bill is designed to provide for those children who, as Commander Galbraith put it, "have been deprived of childhood's most precious heritage—a good home."

It is also encouraging to learn that some go-ahead local authorities have not waited for the new Bill to become law but have already appointed Children's Officers—the sympathetic person, generally a woman, who will be what Mr Younger, Under-Secretary, Home Office, called "the linch-pin of the new service." Thirty of these Officers have been appointed in England and Wales.

## GERMAN SCOUTS AGAIN

GERMAN Boy Scouts will soon be reappearing in the British zone of Germany, sponsored by the Churches. It is to be hoped that the movement will spread gradually until most German boys will be able to enjoy all the good things that B-P's great fraternity has to offer.

The Nazi poison must be eliminated from German life, and what could be better for German boys than the Scout movement? German youth takes kindly to leadership and discipline, and it should react well to the fine fellowship which after so many years is now open to them once more.

## The Valuable Gift

LIBERTY is one of the most valuable gifts Heaven has bestowed upon men; the treasures which the earth encloses, or the sea covers, are not to be compared with it. Life may, and ought to be, risked for liberty, as well as for honour; and, on the contrary, slavery is the greatest evil that can befall us.

Cervantes

## Editor's Table

PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO KNOW

If vacant looks come  
from empty heads



SOUTHEND is to have beach hosts. It usually has hosts of visitors.

□

GOLF links are a typical part of the English landscape. A matter of course.

□

A PARLIAMENTARY candidate says all his meetings are packed. They can be carried with his resolutions.

□

WHAT'S Going On in the City is the title of a newspaper article. The traffic.

□

CHILDREN should be called musical names. But should not give themselves airs.

## THINGS SAID

FREEDOM of information and opinion is the mother of all freedoms.

Ernest Davies, M P

NEVER before have there been so many nations co-operating and planning together.

Sir John Boyd Orr

A PUBLICITY bureau for all the Churches could supply information to the public of what is being thought and done in and by the Churches.

Rev'd S. Maurice Watts

ALL the reports we have received from our representatives abroad indicate that a good harvest is likely in most parts of the world this year.

The Foreign Minister

IN the international scene today science means knowledge and power, and its proper use is one of the most important challenges of our time.

Sir Edward Appleton

## Youth's Responsibility

MR KEY, Minister of Works, referring in Parliament recently to vandalism in our public parks—the breaking of chairs and other equipment, and the stealing of plants—said:

"My experience has been that, as after the First World War, there has been a breakdown in the discipline of the young people of this country which will take some time to overcome."

Boys and girls are, by no means always to blame for this vandalism, but they are certainly the best people to tighten up public discipline in this matter, and thus teach the thoughtless ones that Britain is their heritage to preserve.

## THE BLACKBIRD

How sweet the harmonies of afternoon!

The Blackbird sings along the sunny breeze

His ancient song of leaves, and Summer boon;

Rich-breath of hayfields streams through whispering trees;

And birds of morning trim their bustling wings,

And listen fondly—while the Blackbird sings.

How soft the lovelight of the West reposes

On this green valley's cheery solitude,

On the trim cottage with its screen of roses,

On the grey belfry with its ivy hood,

And murmuring mill-race, and the wheel that flings

Its bubbling freshness—while the Blackbird sings

Frederick Tennyson

## DAILY GROWING

A SENSITIVE plant in a garden grew,

And the young winds fed it with silver dew;

And it opened its fan-like leaves to the light,

And closed them beneath the kisses of night.

Shelley

# A Masque For Princess Elizabeth

AN Elizabethan and Stuart custom—the performance of a masque or pageant-play—will be revived on May 25, when Princess Elizabeth visits Oxford University to receive the degree of Doctor of Civil Law. Undergraduates will present the masque in one of the quadrangles of University College.

Two dons, with the help of undergraduates, have been preparing the masque which Princess Elizabeth will see. With traditional pageantry it will epitomise the spirit of England; and St George on a white horse will, at the climax, speak verses from Shakespeare's Henry VIII in which these lines occur:

*This royal infant . . . now promises  
Upon this land a thousand  
thousand blessings,  
Which time shall bring to ripeness.*

The last time a masque was similarly performed at Oxford was in 1636 when Ben Jonson and Inigo Jones staged one for the visit of Charles I. Jonson wrote the poetry and Inigo Jones devised the scenes.

Masques flourished in England in the 16th and 17th centuries. Shakespeare introduced a dainty little reference to a masque into *The Tempest*—Prospero's famous lines:

*The cloud-capped towers, the  
gorgeous palaces,  
The solemn temples, the great  
globe itself,  
Yea, all which it inherit, shall  
dissolve  
And like this insubstantial  
pageant faded,  
Leave not a rack behind.*

Except that they lacked a plot, masques in many ways resembled opera, with music and gorgeous scenes as their chief features; and they were per-

formed as a rule to celebrate an outstanding event.

Henry Lawes wrote the music for several masques, including Milton's *Comus*, and Ben Jonson was a master of the art of writing for them, his first being the *Masque of Blackness*, which was performed in the banqueting hall of Whitehall Palace on Twelfth Night, 1606. In this masque, amid elaborate settings designed by Inigo Jones, the Queen herself took part, together with her ladies-in-waiting and courtiers; with blackened faces and arms, they made a brave if somewhat incongruous appearance as Ethiopians!

A behind-the-scenes description of another early masque refers to "the huge engines, the windlasses, the stout cables, the ropes and the cords" by which the scenes were manipulated; and also to the "enormous number of men necessary for working them, each at his post ready at a signal to lower or to raise, to move or stay motionless." More than 300 stage hands were employed for a single performance.

We are also told in an early chronicle that "one spark from a lamp . . . might bring all to ruin." And a disaster did actually occur in 1619, when a house was burnt down because "the device of the masque, all of oiled paper and dry fir," caught fire.

Such were the masques of Merrie England in the days of yore!

## BUTTONS GROW ON TREES

MORE than 500 million buttons are made in the United States every year from nuts that grow wild on palm trees in the jungles of South America. About 100 nuts grow in a single bunch. The nut "meat" is sawn into thin slices which are sent to the factories for manufacture into buttons.

Somebody has recently estimated that 10,000 million buttons are turned out by 300 United States factories in a normal year. Before clothes rationing began in Britain it was said that

we used at least 3000 million buttons every year.

We have been using buttons in Britain since the tenth century, when they were more ornamental than useful. They were often made of gold or silver and were imported from abroad.

Included among the many materials from which buttons have been made are plated copper, white metal, steel, pinchbeck, japanned tin, glass, mother-of-pearl, ivory, bone, tortoiseshell, jet, paper, milk, and wood.



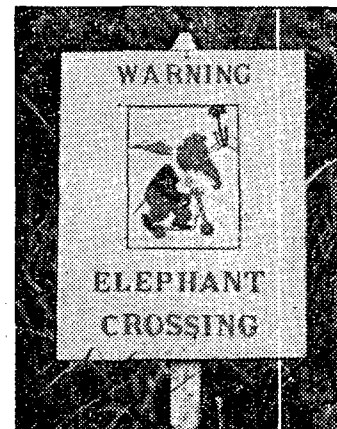
THIS ENGLAND

Old houses at Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire

## SAFE WAY FOR JUMBOS

THIS amusing sign, painted in gay colours, stands on a road in Nigeria near the town of Akure. It is a very necessary warning, for the elephants have a long-established pedestrian crossing here—in fact, they were regularly going this way before the road was made. At this point one of the many elephant paths in this region of dense forest and tropical bush crosses the main road.

Every year, during the early summer, a herd of elephants



Photograph by Mr R. L. Lechner-Cerlet, by courtesy of The P.D. Review

crosses the main road, remains on the other side searching for food in the vicinity for two or three months, then re-crosses the road at exactly the same spot. It is remarkable how, without fail, at practically the same times every year, these two journeys take place.

Although to us this sign is just a humorous drawing, to the natives it is an object of somewhat doubtful repute. When a white man was about to take this photograph of it, his native driver and his "boy" tried to dissuade him from doing so. For the previous evening he had stopped to photograph a native roadside ju-ju (charm or fetish), and afterwards his car had broken down and he had been stranded for some hours.

Both driver and boy assured him that this elephant sign was another ju-ju and if he photographed it his car would break down again; ju-jus, they said, just hate being photographed. With difficulty he persuaded them it was only a road sign.

The elephants do not bother themselves about ju-jus—or cars; they just meander across the road with a total absence of superstition or kerb-drill.

## Rome in Suffolk

WHEN deep ploughing of a field at Ixworth in Suffolk brought to the surface a variety of Roman debris it became evident that the foundations of a big Roman villa had been disturbed. The assistance of Ipswich Museum was sought and it was decided to carry out some systematic explorations.

One of the discoveries was a large portion of a centrally heated bath-house at the end of one wing of the villa, complete with a furnace room in which were the ashes of fires lit some 17 centuries ago! A Roman wall was also excavated to a depth of 18 feet, and at the top was found a coin of Carausius who ruled in Great Britain from A.D. 287 to 293.



## What a Single Bone May Reveal

FOSSILISED remains of a man-like ape, found recently near Sterkfontein in the Transvaal, have led the scientists who found them to believe that the creature walked upright and was about four feet tall. Two thigh bones were dug up by Dr Camp and Dr Peabody of the University of California expedition and these, together with the pelvis found last August by Dr Broom, have enabled the scientists to make their theoretical reconstruction of the animal.

One of the first scientists to reconstruct the appearance of an extinct animal from the clue of just one bone was Sir Richard Owen, the famous comparative anatomist of the last century. Someone, in 1838, sent him from New Zealand a huge leg bone, as big as that of an enormous ox. Sir Richard declared that it had belonged to a gigantic wingless bird, and from this one bone he worked out the proportions and "set-up" of the whole creature.

In New Zealand the first white men had found among the Maoris a tradition about an extinct wingless giant bird which they called a Moa, and which they said their ancestors used to hunt. Soon large numbers of the bones of these moas were collected and it was possible to put together the skeleton of one. This corresponded exactly with the dimensions which Owen had built up from his one bone.

This modest kindly man, one of the greatest of our scientific pioneers, was persuaded to be photographed standing beside a complete skeleton of a moa, or dinornis, holding in his hand a fragment of the bone from which he had anticipated the real thing.

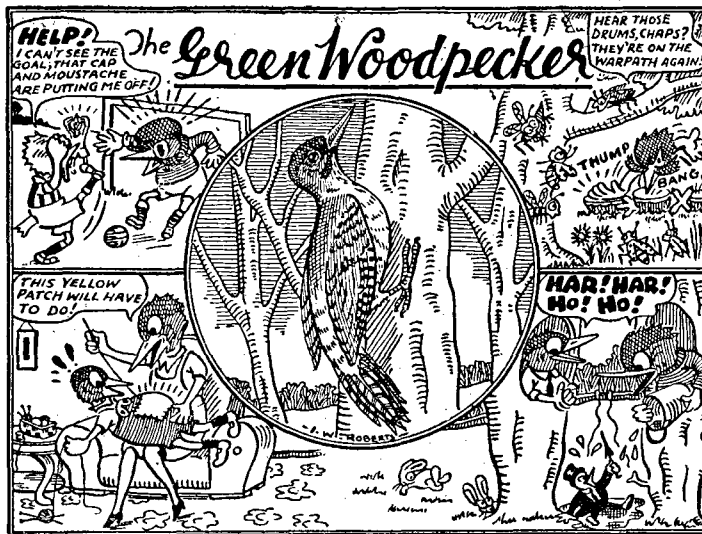
### LEARNED SAILORS

THE College of the Sea, in Bloomsbury, which sends lessons by post to ships and ports all over the world, recently enrolled its 5000th pupil. Watch-repairing, cookery, music, the Hebrew religion, and even farming are among the subjects that British seamen are studying.

Tutors in the specialised subjects are all volunteers; among them are University professors, doctors, and musicians.

## Laugh While You Learn—Nature Study Made Easy

WHEN, alighting, the Green Woodpecker grips firmly the bark of the tree, with its head held up and the stiff feathers of the tail helping to support the body. The bright scarlet crown and moustache add to the beauty of this highly-coloured bird. With its long, sharp beak it drums away at the trees, searching for insects, but it may sometimes be seen searching on the ground, for it loves to unearth



an ant's nest. The yellow rump contrasts with the apple green of the body, and as the Green Woodpecker stays with us throughout the winter, it adds a touch of colour to drab winter days. The loud laughing cry seems to mock and sneer as we walk through the woods. The Green Woodpecker bores a hole into a tree for its nest, and keeps a sharp lookout for any bird that may try to steal it.

## THE SHIRES AND THEIR STRANGE SHAPES

SEVERAL changes in our county boundaries are likely to be made as a result of the Boundary Commission's Report. Such changes will be made, of course, only for the purpose of Local Government reform, and they will cause much controversy. But they do draw attention, incidentally, to the queer shapes of many of our shires.

Poring over the map of England many of us have wondered why our counties are shaped as they are. The coastline, of course, accounts for much of the irregularity; but why does Northumberland look like a night-cap all awry? Why do Gloucester and Worcester

seem to cross hands and perform a country dance at their common boundary?

Then there are pieces of counties left out in the cold, separated from their parents, as it were. Thus Lancashire looks as if, after a tough struggle, it had wrested the peninsula of Furness from Cumberland. A bit of Worcestershire has been gobbled up by Staffordshire. One piece of Flintshire pops up in Denbighshire, and another piece is hemmed in by Denbighshire, Cheshire, and Shropshire.

It is believed that these peculiarities in the shapes of the counties are traceable to Anglo-Saxon times. The great

Saxon chieftains and the leaders of the Northmen made themselves rulers of such portions of Britain as they were able to conquer. Each had a capital or chief city—Canterbury for Kent, Winchester for Wessex. As their people spread farther and farther from these cities the rulers appointed deputies to govern remoter districts.

Sometimes two deputies would quarrel about the border line separating one district from another, and small battles would be fought all along it, thus giving an irregular appearance to the shape of the sub-kingdoms—later to become counties.

As for the detached portions of counties, a commanding hill offering a strong site for a castle might be seized and fortified by an enterprising thane of a neighbouring district. Such was perhaps the case with Dudley and its district, a piece of Worcestershire completely detached from its county and standing like an island in Staffordshire.

Sometimes contact would be maintained with their home county by the thanes occupying a position in the next county, and in this way "bulges" would be formed, many of which can be seen by studying the shape of the shires.

## A Forgotten Historian

IN an exhibition of old English pottery and porcelain at the Victoria and Albert Museum there is a figure of a woman leaning on four volumes of history and labelled Mrs Macaulay. There are people who assume that the figure represents the wife of Thomas Babington Macaulay, the celebrated 19th-century historian, but they are wrong, for Macaulay never married.

The figure is of Mrs Catharine Macaulay, a historian well-known in the 18th century for her eight-volume History of England, but now largely forgotten. Posterity has not endorsed the opinions of Thomas Gray and Horace Walpole, who both considered her work to be "the most sensible, unaffected, and best history of England that we have had yet"; neither has it supported Mary Wollstonecraft's view of their author as "the woman of the greatest abilities that this country has ever produced."

Catharine Macaulay was undoubtedly a woman of considerable talent; she was also a picturesque character who held strong views about most of the controversial questions of her day and was not afraid of airing them. She was once completely discomfited by Dr Johnson.

She had invited the great man to dinner and was boring him with arguments in support of her favourite theory of the rights of man. Dr Johnson heard her out solemnly, and then utterly silenced his hostess by saying suddenly, "Now, madam, pray invite your footman to sit down and dine with us."

### EXPENSIVE TASTE

IT is the custom of the housewives of Elgin, Morayshire, to give a titbit to Dobbin, a milkman's horse, when they pay their bills on Saturday morning. Usually the titbit is a lump of sugar or a juicy carrot, which most horses find very tasty. Dobbin, however, must have got a little tired of her menu, for recently when one lady tendered the usual offering in the same hand that held a 10s note, she ate the note as well; moreover, she seemed to enjoy it!

## Champions From Australia

AMONG the finest women athletes at the Olympic Games will be those wearing the starry emblem of Australia.

Miss Charlotte McGibbon, of Victoria, is discus champion of her State; but it is with the javelin that she may win an Olympic gold medal, for she holds the British Empire record with a throw of 135 feet 1½ inches. Miss McGibbon is of Scots extraction, and her grandfather was a champion of the Highland Games. She is determined that

she will become a champion, too.

Another of Australia's athletic stars is Shirley Strickland, of Western Australia. A science student, she has the fine time of 11.6 seconds for the 90 yards hurdles to her credit.

Joyce King, a sprinting star of New South Wales, recently won two Australian championships, running the 100 yards in 11 seconds, and the 220 yards in 24.9 seconds, times that compare more than favourably with women's world records.

## ALICE IN WONDERLAND—Picture Version of Lewis Carroll's Delightful Fantasy



Alice, forgetting how large she had grown in the last few minutes, jumped up in such a hurry that she tipped over the jury-box, upsetting all the jurymen on to the floor. "Oh, I beg your pardon!" she exclaimed, and picked them up quickly. "The trial cannot proceed," said the King, "until the jurymen are back in their proper places—all," he repeated, looking hard at Alice.



Alice looked at the jury-box and saw that, in her haste, she had put the Lizard in head downwards, and the poor little thing was waving its tail about in a melancholy way, being quite unable to move its body. She soon put it the right way up again. "Not that it signifies much," she thought. "I should think it would be quite as much use in the trial one way up as the other."



"Now what do you know of this business of the tarts being stolen?" the King asked Alice. "Nothing whatever," replied Alice. "That's very important," the King said. "Unimportant, your Majesty means, of course," the White Rabbit whispered. "Unimportant, of course I meant," said the King, and repeated to himself "Unimportant—important," trying which sounded best.



Then the King called out "Silence!" and read what he had just written in his notebook: "Rule 42. All persons more than a mile high to leave the court." Everybody looked at Alice. "I'm not a mile high," said Alice. "You are," said the King. "Nearly two miles high," added the Queen. "Well, I shan't go," said Alice. "Besides, that's not a regular rule; you invented it just now."

**What will happen now that Alice has openly defied the "court"? See next week's instalment**



The Children's Newspaper, May 29, 1948

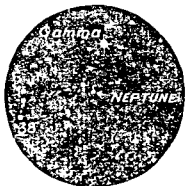
## WHERE TO FIND NEPTUNE

By the C.N. Astronomer

THE remote planet Neptune is now well placed for observation by those who possess field-glasses. Great though Neptune is—some 72 times the size of our Earth—so far away is he that he appears only a little brighter than eighth magnitude. It is, however, possible to find him with powerful field-glasses or a small telescope of only two inches diameter.

The accompanying star-map will make this possible because it shows the immediate locality of Neptune and the stars down to about his apparent brightness; but to find them a very clear and dark sky is necessary, and it is desirable to rest the glasses or telescope against some support so as to keep them perfectly steady.

In the star-map which appeared in the C.N. for May 1 it will be seen that Neptune is in the constellation of Virgo and appears a little way to the left of the bright star Gamma. This star will appear together with Neptune in the field-of-view of most glasses very much as shown in the accompanying star-map, and so will be a good guide.



As seen through the glasses, Neptune just now appears very close to a star apparently somewhat brighter than himself and so may be readily identified. Slight movement towards the right during the next few weeks will prove his identity still further, while later on Neptune will appear to travel more rapidly toward the left and completely away from the star.

Neptune is at present 2760 million miles away and slowly receding from his nearest point, which was on April 1 when he was 2729 million miles away. It will therefore be quite an achievement to get a glimpse of a world so distant. If only Neptune were as near as our Moon what a grand spectacle would be presented! We should see a great cloud-belted sphere of greenish hue sixteen times as wide as our Moon appears to us; and, while this great sphere would present all the phases shown by our Moon, the face of Neptune would be ever changing, due to his great belts of cloud, as he spun round in the short period of 15 hours and 4 minutes.

### The Moon Triton

Neptune has a great moon, Triton, with a diameter half as wide again as our Moon, which revolves round Neptune at an average distance of 220,000 miles; that is not quite so far as our Moon is from the Earth. Triton, however, travels very much faster than our Moon, completing a revolution in only 5 days, 21 hours, 2 minutes; whereas our Moon takes 27 days, 7 hours, 43 minutes.

Triton travels the reverse way to our Moon, and at the unusual angle of some 40 degrees to Neptune's orbit. Triton is also very heavy relative to Neptune. All this seems to suggest that Triton was once a body which long ages ago came within the gravitational pull of Neptune and so became a captured moon.

G. F. M.

## Newfoundland at the Crossroads

NEWFOUNDLAND'S 320,000 inhabitants will take part in a referendum on June 3 to decide the future of their island home, which is a little smaller than England. They have three choices. They can continue to be ruled by Commission as at present; they can revert to responsible self-government as was the case before 1933; or they can become a tenth province of Canada.

The decision of the Newfoundlanders will come as the climax to a story which goes back to the discovery of the island by John Cabot in 1497. Though Henry VII was delighted, and rewarded the discoverer with the sum of ten pounds, the first permanent settlers did not land on the island until 1638.

### The Oldest Dominion

Long claiming the proud distinction of being the oldest Dominion in the Commonwealth, Newfoundland achieved self-government in 1855; and though the British North America Act of 1867 (which set up the Dominion of Canada) contained an invitation for the island at the mouth of the St Lawrence to join, Newfoundland did not accept the offer.

When the great depression struck the world in 1929 Newfoundland was badly hit. By 1931 she found herself in a parlous state, with many unemployed and unable to pay her way. Two years later she appealed to the Mother Country for assistance and a Royal Commission recommended the system of Government by Commission which has operated ever since. Under this plan, three British and three Newfoundland members, plus the Governor, were given full powers, subject to the Dominions Secretary (now the Secretary for Dominion Relations) at Westminster.

For a time the struggle was hard, but by 1941, partly owing to

wartime demand for her products, Newfoundland was beginning to pay her way again. In addition, Newfoundland provided 10,000 men for the common cause, and lent 12 million Canadian dollars to Britain, free of interest.

When the war ended, the people of the island remembered that in 1933 the intention had been for Commission rule to last only until Newfoundland should be able to support herself once more. Accordingly, in June 1946, a National Convention was elected to discover whether the island was ready for a change, and if so, to recommend to the British Government the alternatives which should be placed before the people. Not without some difficulty, the three alternatives were thrashed out, and now the people of Newfoundland have to make their momentous decision.

### Friends at Hand

Whatever their choice may be, their friends will be on hand to help. Mr Mackenzie King, Canada's famous Premier, has stated that Canada will accept the verdict, whatever it may be, with good will and understanding. "As for the United Kingdom," said The Times recently, "its one interest is to see Newfoundland set as soon as possible on the course that suits her best by the choice of her own people."

And that, when all is said and done, is what we all wish for every part of the British Commonwealth and Empire.

## THE BOOK OF A GREAT ALL-ROUNDER

FEW books can be as sure of a welcome as Denis Compton's *Playing for England*, just published by Sampson Low (7s 6d). It is a book that has been awaited by every schoolboy and indeed, by all the young in heart. Appropriately it is dedicated to young England.

Dennis Compton has a wonderful story to tell—for it is given to few men to represent their country at both cricket and soccer—and he tells it with great gusto. Because cricket is his first and greatest love—as he confesses, though he enjoys football—his book is chiefly about our great summer game; and it bows along merrily from its opening over when we meet him at Bell Lane School, Hendon—a 12-year-old lad "little higher than a pound's worth of coppers," who was captain of his school as well as its cricket and football teams and who idolised Jack Hobbs of Surrey, maker of 197 centuries.

Don Bradman was 12 when he made his first century. Denis Compton was 13; but he achieved the schoolboy dream of making it at Lord's! Moreover, he had the great fortune on that day of days—he was playing for London Elementary Schools against the Public Schools—of attracting the interest of that great encourager of youth, Sir Pelham Warner. Before long he was on

the ground staff at Lord's, scene of so many of his later triumphs. A great career had really begun!

Dennis has a host of good stories about other great cricketers and footballers, and he is as generous in his praise of them as he is modest about his own achievements. He also has much advice for young players, with special emphasis on the importance of keeping fit. One of his chapters is called *Batsmanship and You*, and although it is unlikely to turn the promising youngster into a Don Bradman or a Denis Compton, it will undoubtedly help him to improve his play if he takes heed and perseveres.

This is a happy book. May it prove Denis Compton as successful with his pen as with bat and ball—and as we all hope he will be in the coming Tests.

### Cotton Substitute

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## THE BRAN TUB

### SHARP RETORT

JOAN: Doesn't her constant singing in the flat annoy you?

Jane: Not so much as the constant flat in her singing.

### Cuckoo Lore

ALMOST all over Europe there are strange ideas and superstitions about the cuckoo. The first to hear the call of the cuckoo in a village is said to be promised a long life; in the case of a maiden a speedy marriage is indicated. When cuckoos call loudly it is said in many places that a thunderstorm is on the way.

Then there is the old idea that in the winter cuckoos change into hawks. Of course, this is not true, for the birds fly southwards when cold weather threatens. Probably the idea arose owing to the resemblance of the cuckoo to a hawk when it is on the wing.

### SOME HOPE!

EVEN though the rain be pouring Still the Aussies go on scoring; Which is far from being boring, Writes our Master Peter Puck.

But although we get duck weather It is very doubtful whether We shall often see together That man Bradman and a "duck."

### ACCOMPLISHED

MISTRESS (hearing a crash of crockery): Norah, what on earth are you doing?

Maid: Nothing, ma'am; it's done.

### BEDTIME CORNER

#### Sweet Singers

WHEN Janet lay awake one night

She heard a nightingale, And never had she heard such notes

Rise up and down the scale.

She called her mummy up and said,

"Do listen to that voice, If I could only sing like that How would my heart rejoice!"

Then Janet's mummy said,

"My dear, You sing so merrily. No birdie's voice that I have heard

Has seemed so sweet to me.

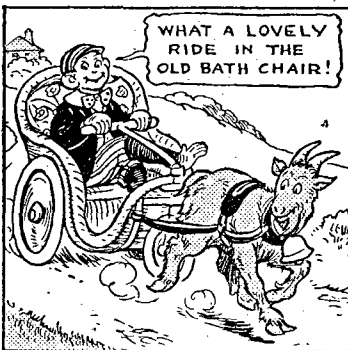
#### CAT-AND-DOG TALE

"CATS," Bobbie was saying, "are silly animals. They won't fetch a ball or a stick; they won't play or walk at heel—in fact, all they do is sit and doze.

"Don't be silly," said his sister Pam. "My Blackie is beautiful. You do not see her running wildly about the place and making a lot of noise. And she is always washing herself, which is more than your ugly old Puck does."

And so the friendly banter went on, neither of the twins being prepared to say a good word for the other's pet.

Then one day Blackie could not be found. Eventu-



With Billy providing the power Jacko had a fine "pony and trap."

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Water Bat. Passing the Long Pond, Don's attention was drawn by a mouselike creature resting in a niche where a branch had been sawn from a willow tree. Investigating, he found it to be a small bat, which at his approach darted off, vanishing into the gathering dusk.

"It was probably a water bat," also known as Daubenton's Bat," explained Farmer Gray, hearing of the odd little creature. "They are often confused with the Pipistrelle, being of a similar size—that is, about three or four inches long. Daubenton's Bats live near water and catch the numerous insects which hover over ponds and streams."

### What Am I?

I HIT a certain kind of ball. I am what actors wait for. Yet I sound like gardens, famed, and fine; And like a file that some shops get; Also like one of twenty-six. Tucked in our English alphabet.

Answer next week

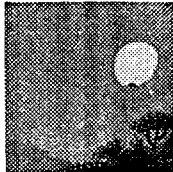
## Jacko is Taken For a Ride



Until Billy decided it was time for a sit-down strike.

### Other Worlds

IN the evening Mercury and Venus are in the west, and Saturn and Mars are in the south-west. In the morning Jupiter is in the south-west. The picture shows the Moon at 6.30 am on Thursday, May 27.



### STILL MISSING

PETER was struggling with his homework.

"Oh dear," he sighed, "I can't find this Least Common Multiple!"

"Is that thing still lost?" queried Father, looking up from his paper. "My teacher had me hunting for it when I was your age."

### What Your Name Means

Eva, Eve .. .. life  
Evelyn .. .. hazel nut  
Fanny, Frances .. free  
Felix .. .. happy  
Ferdinand .. .. adventuring  
Fergus .. .. strong arm

### Sage Saw

A FOOL throws a stone into the sea; a hundred wise men cannot pull it out.

### Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, May 26, to Tuesday, June 1.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Earrings in the Underground—a story. 5.15 Regional Round. N. Ireland, 5.0 Nature Diary. North, 5.0 A Nursery Sing-Song; A Quiz.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Serenade for Children. 5.30 The SPCK. 5.40 Massed Children's Choir. Midland, 5.0 Pirates' Creek (Part 1). North, 5.0 Peril in the Pennines (Part 3). Welsh, 5.30 The Adventures of David; Jimmy Quickly—a story.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Biffer (4); The Seven Sapphires (Part 3). Scottish, 5.0 A Story; Scottish Dance Tunes; Lullabyland.

SATURDAY, 5.0 The Princess's Remarkable Hair—a story; The Coloured Coons; How I Learned—Lawn Tennis. North, 5.0 Variety. West, 5.0 Ebby (2). 5.15 Magazine. 5.45 Hobby of a Lifetime.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Calendar. North, 5.0 From the Isle of Skye.

MONDAY, 5.0 Naughty Sophia. 5.40 Exploring Islands—a talk. N. Ireland, 5.0 Miss Pennyfeather in the Springtime (Part 5); Two Planos. 5.30 Sports Quiz. North, 5.0 Sports Quiz; Examination Pieces; Books Worth Reading. Scottish, 5.0 Music and a story. 5.25 The Scottish Zooman and the Birdman.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Black Beauty (22); Records. 5.25 Nature Parliament. North, 5.0 The River Bandit (Part 2); News Talk; Music; France To-day. Scottish, 5.0 Down at the Mains. 5.0th Party.

## FROM PILLAR TO POST

WHEN we say that a man is driven from pillar to post we mean that he is constantly harried and given no rest. The expression probably originated as "pillory to whipping post," two old forms of punishment. The pillory was a board, with holes for head and hands, mounted on a post, where offenders were exposed to public ridicule. It was last used in England more than a hundred years ago.

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

What Is It?  
The word was cotton (cot, ton)

BEAT	RARE
LOCATED	
KNOT	EG
BOA	BLE
PLA	ORE
SPINE	ODD
LO	GROW
ASSERT	S
MEAL	CELL

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